



January 25, 2011

The Honorable Adam Kline
State Senate, District 37
Washington State Capitol
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: OPPOSITION – SB 5234 (Drug Take Back Program)

Dear Senator Kline:

On behalf of Genentech, I am writing to respectfully oppose your Senate Bill 5234, which requires the establishment of a product stewardship program for the return and disposal of legend and nonlegend drugs.

Genentech primarily produces medicines known as biologics. Biologics are proteins natural to the body that are grown in cell cultures for infusion in doctor's offices. Because of the fragility of the products and concerns about product safety, Genentech already maintains a vigorous return program for unused products. From the standpoint of patient metabolism and drugs in human waste, biologics are fully metabolized in the body resulting in no discernable waste byproduct from the patient.

This legislation requires all producers of drugs and biologics to pay a fee for the disposal of all drugs, including biologics, and to take back products manufactured by all other producers regardless of the actual impact on the environment of an individual producer's products or the return programs that producer currently has in place. At Genentech we feel a strong sense of responsibility for our own products, hence our own return program. However, we believe it is unfair to require us or any other producer to be responsible for other companies' products.

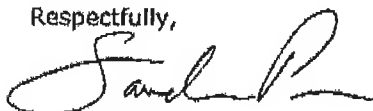
Without solid evidence that such a program would generally benefit the public, it is unreasonable that the State of Washington would take steps that increase the administrative cost associated with the delivery of needed medicines. While we recognize that the proposed legislation prohibits a direct fee on the patients to offset the costs of this new program, it is undeniable that the program will ultimately, at least indirectly, increase overall costs to these same consumers. During a time when the cost of health care continues to rise, programs such as this would only add to health care costs while providing no quantifiable benefit.

Finally, Washington has made supporting and growing the biotechnology industry in the state a high priority, but this legislation does not recognize the inherent differences in the administration and metabolism of biologics and rather seeks to impose a one-size fits all solution to unused and unwanted medications. Genentech has made significant investments in biomedical research and innovation in Washington through business partnerships with in-state companies and an annual multimillion-dollar clinical trial research program. The impact of this bill would be to discourage investment of this kind by imposing an unreasonable burden on Genentech and its peers in the biotech industry.

Considered the founder of the biotechnology industry, Genentech has been delivering on the promise of biotechnology for more than thirty years, using human genetic information to discover, develop, manufacture and commercialize biotherapeutics that address significant unmet medical needs.

If you would like to discuss this matter with us, please do not hesitate to contact me. My phone number is (916) 443-5703, and my email address is pizarros@gene.com.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Pizarro', written in a cursive style.

Sandra Pizarro,
Northwest Senior Regional Manager

State Government Affairs
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